



Issue no.: 357

July 24, 1568

# THE TIME TRAVELER'S NEWS

## “THEY SAY I’M STRANGE, BUT I DON’T REALLY KNOW WHY”

### Interview to Prince Don Carlos of Spain

This week, we’ve traveled all the way back to 1568 to ask heir-apparent Prince Don Carlos of Spain about his life and experiences. He’s welcomed us warmly to his tower in the castle of Arévalo, Ávila.

[Some parts of this interview have been omitted due to foul language or incomprehensible stuttering.]

**TTN:** Good evening, Don Carlos. It’s a pleasure to be here with you.

**DC:** The pleasure is mine.

**So, tell us, when and where were you born?**

I was born on July the 8<sup>th</sup>, 1545 in Valladolid. My mom, María Manuela of Portugal, died four days after I was born, so I didn’t quite get to meet her.

**It is said that you were born a strange child. Is that true?**

Over the years, they’ve told me I’m hunchbacked, pigeon-breasted, with weird shoulders and legs... They even said I had mental problems and aggressive behavior! As if I was mad like my grandma!

**How were you like as a kid?**

They say I was strange, though I don’t really know why. I loved torturing animals, servants, and girls. You should try doing that, it’s surprisingly enjoyable. Did you know I even bit the head off a snake? Ah, those were the good times. When I was little, I also found out how much I liked eating. Plus, I never get fat, so I can eat as much as I want.



A portrait of a young and fair Don Carlos.

**Are you single or married?**

I’ve never married any woman, but a lot of marriages have been proposed to me.

For instance, when my grandpa Charles V died and my dad Philip II became king of the Hispanic Monarchy, around May 1556, they told me I could marry my cousin, the Archduchess Anna. Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I of England were also close to marrying me. Even Elisabeth of France, who ended up marrying my dad! I like being single, though. I prefer whipping girls rather than marrying them.

**What was the most important experience in your life?**

**“I prefer  
whipping girls  
rather than  
marrying them”**

I’d probably say my accident in 1562. I was running down a set of stairs and fell down, and as a result I got a big wound on my head. I was in bed for a long

## “ I almost killed a cardinal who made a rude comment about me”

time (weeks? months? I lost track of time). Apparently, I was temporarily blind and lost a lot of blood, and there seemed to be no cure. So I remember some monks laying somebody in bed with me. They told me it was the holy corpse of Friar Diego, and that it would cure my illness. I dreamt of Friar Diego that night, and saw things nobody's ever seen before. And to my astonishment, I recovered soon after that, although I did start to feel a little strange.

**A true miracle. But how come now you're in this tower of the castle of Arévalo?**



Castle of Arévalo, Ávila (Spain).

It's all because of that stupid accident and its consequences. At first I was silent most of the time, but people wouldn't stop asking me if I was okay, and I knew everybody thought I was crazy, so I became angry. Every day, servants and even Court officials would turn against me,

and sometimes I would attack or threaten them. I almost killed a cardinal who made a rude comment about me. And my dad was beginning to get mad at me! So I started plotting against him. But one fatal day on January 1568, he found out about my plans and had me imprisoned here! Can you believe it? My own father betrayed me!

We had to leave the interview at that point because Don Carlos was feeling feverish again and he wasn't able to answer any more questions. Just as we were leaving, he ordered his servants to bring him a big spicy cake and 10 litres of water. We are worried about his health and mental state.

Editor's note: As we have just found out, Don Carlos passed away moments after we left the interview.

## NEXT WEEK:

INTERVIEW TO KING HENRY VIII OF ENGLAND ABOUT HIS NEW WIFE, JANE SEYMOUR

“THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM”

